

women"—women from conquered countries who were forced into sexual slavery to serve Japanese troops—has been sharply criticized by Amnesty International, which has called on the Japanese government to accept full responsibility.

Of the estimated 80,000 to 200,000 comfort women, 80 to 90 percent were from Korea. Girls as young as 11 were forced to serve between five and 40 soldiers a day, and almost 100 soldiers daily on weekends. Those who resisted were beaten, burned or wounded with the soldiers' swords. During the Japanese retreat, many were left to starve or were executed to eliminate any trace of the atrocities.

For many years after the Second World War, Japan insisted that the comfort stations had been private brothels. Only in 1993 did Japan admit any military responsibility. Although many of the comfort women have died, and many are now quite old, Japan must make restitution. The principle is not so much war as the human dignity of women, and as long as Japan does nothing, it implies that it does not care.

The first South Korean woman to tell her story was Bae Bong Ki in 1980. Kim Hak Soon, who died in 1997, related in 1991 how Japanese soldiers had abducted her when she was 17 and forced to carry ammunition by day and serve as a prostitute by night. Her testimony sparked several others. Evidence of comfort stations has already been found in Korea, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, New Guinea and Okinawa.

Chung Seo Woon, interviewed by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson in the book *Making More Waves*, was the only child of a wealthy landowner in South Korea. Her father was sent to prison and badly tortured. When she was 16, she was allowed to visit him. She was told that if she agreed to work in Japan for 2 years, her father would be released. Despite strong objections from her mother, she agreed.

Chung Seo Woon was placed on a ship with many other girls and women. Her group went from Japan to Indonesia, where they were sterilized and sent to Semarang, a coastal town, where they were forced to serve dozens of soldiers and officers daily. In the process, she was forced to become an opium addict. When Chung Seo Woon attempted to commit suicide by swallowing malaria pills, she was revived, and, she remarks, "It was then that I made up my mind to survive and tell my story, what Japan did to us." When war ended and she returned home, she found her house deserted. Her father had died in prison, and her mother, humiliated by a rape attempt by Japanese soldiers, had committed suicide.

Chung Seo Woon kicked her opium addiction after 8 hard months of struggle and worked hard to regain her dignity. She was never able to attain a normal sex life, but found companionship and care from a physician who had had a nervous breakdown after serving in the Japanese army.

In November 1994, an international commission of jurists stated that "it is indisputable that these women were forced, deceived, coerced and abducted to provide sexual services to the Japanese military" and that Japan "violated customary norms of international law concerning war crimes, crimes against humanity, slavery and the trafficking in women and children. . . Japan should take full responsibility now, and make suitable restitution to the victims and their families."

Still forthcoming is a formal, clear and unambiguous apology to the victims of sexual abuse by Japanese soldiers, adequate monetary compensation, and punishment of those involved.

In 1995, the Japanese government introduced the Asian Women's Fund as a response

to international criticism. But the fund is widely perceived by survivors as a way for the Japanese government not to fulfill its legal responsibilities. As Purna Sen, director of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Program, has stated: "The Japanese government must finally right the wrongs of over 60 years by providing full reparations to the survivors of this horrific system of sexual slavery."

The money is more than money; it carries with it an important symbolism. During her testimony at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, Chung Seo Woon declared, "I might be poor, but not that poor. I demand the compensation that is rightly due to me, even if I would burn the money after it is in my hand. It is not a matter of money but of principle. The Japanese have defiled my body but not my spirit. My spirit is strong, rich and proud."

Contact César Chelala at
cchelala@aol.com.

PRESIDENT SASSOU-NGUESSO'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 6 of this year, the President of the Republic of Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, met at the White House with President Bush.

Not a mere photo opportunity, this meeting was substantive and included discussions of the situation in Darfur (Sudan), terrorism in Somalia and other parts of Africa, combating HIV/AIDS, and debt relief.

These discussions were important because, in addition to being leader of his own country, President Sassou-Nguesso serves as chairman of the African Union. Congo is also currently a member of the United Nations Security Council.

The two presidents exchanged views on issues of importance to the entire African continent, in particular the crisis of Darfur (Sudan), the electoral process in Congo's neighbor, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the situation in the Ivory Coast.

President Bush welcomed President Sassou-Nguesso's assertion that Africa should take the lead in the search for solutions to Africa's problems. In regard to the crisis of Darfur, the two heads of state agreed on the sending of U.N. forces to replace those of the African Union. There is a delegation of the U.N. Security Council currently carrying out a mission in the Central African Republic, and they agreed that this mission should remain in place to supervise operations in Darfur, the DRC, and Chad. President Sassou-Nguesso thanked President Bush for the U.S. leadership in the fight against the HIV pandemic in Africa.

They also discussed ecological management of the Congo Basin and the Gulf of Guinea as well as bilateral co-operation between the Republic of Congo and the United States. Congo is one of the countries eligible to participate in trade and investment opportunities under the terms of the African Growth and Opportunity Act of 2000.

After the meeting, President Bush stated: "We had a very constructive discussion about a variety of issues. We talked about our common commitment to help end the genocide in

Darfur. I appreciate the President's leadership in helping negotiate a peace agreement, and I appreciate his leadership in working with the United Nations so we can get the AU forces blue-helmeted as quickly as possible.

"And one of my interests, of course, is to join with African nations in combating HIV/AIDS, and I want to congratulate the President for the low infection rate in Congo."

For his part, President Sassou-Nguesso said: "President Bush is absolutely right, we discussed a lot of issues that we're all interested in: peace, security, and not just in Africa, but beyond Africa, in the world. We talked about terrorism, we talked about the Iranian nuclear issue, we talked about the dialogue that's about to open up, I hope, and that will bring good results to that problem."

"And on behalf of all of Africa, I thank President Bush for his commitment in fighting AIDS, the commitment of the United States in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As you know, we had a special meeting on AIDS at the United Nations General Assembly, and as you know also, Africa is the continent that suffers the most from this scourge."

"And we also talked about African development issues. We talked about the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin, the NEPAD, Project for African Development in Africa. And I was happy to see President Bush give his entire support to the development of Africa."

Mr. Speaker, the emergence of the Republic of Congo as a leader in African diplomacy and economic issues is worth noting. Only a few years ago, this small country was suffering from the aftermath of protracted civil conflict. President Sassou-Nguesso has diligently embarked on a program of political reform, social reconciliation, and economic modernization that can serve as a model for other parts of Africa.

I hope that the talks at the White House result in concrete measures for addressing the many issues President Bush and President Sassou-Nguesso discussed.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, the Fiscal Year 2007 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations bill would fund the JAG-Byrne program at \$367 million, which leaves a gap beyond what many States and local law enforcement agencies can fill without cutting multi-jurisdictional task forces which are critical in fighting the war against drugs.

At a time when meth and other drug crime enforcement has already stretched funding resources thin, this funding reduction will certainly have a negative impact. Most of Iowa's meth is in the purer form of "Ice." It is coming into my State from a foreign nation, Mexico. Our cocaine seizures are almost all of Mexican origin.

Recent marijuana seizures in Iowa are of Mexican origin. States, like Iowa, can use Federal assistance in dealing with this now

national and international drug problem. State resources are being stretched thin to combat meth trafficking from Mexico and to work drug conspiracies that have their roots in Mexico and beyond. I continue to support increased funding for Byrne grants. State and local agencies take the brunt of meth investigations without Federal assistance. More than 90% of drug arrests nationwide are made by State and local law enforcement. Tom Constantine, former head of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) testified that the majority of DEA cases begin as referrals from local and multi-jurisdictional drug investigations. He was unaware of any major DEA case during his tenure that did not originate from information gathered at the State and local level.

Byrne-JAG is an effective Federal partnership with State and local law enforcement. The key is local control and information sharing across local, State and Federal jurisdictions. Last year, Byrne task forces seized 5,600 meth labs, 55,000 weapons, and massive quantities of narcotics, including 2.7 million grams of meth. These results demonstrate the power of using Federal dollars to leverage State and local partnerships.

The National Drug Threat Assessment 2006, authored by the Department of Justice, found that Mexican criminal groups control most wholesale distribution of powder and ice methamphetamine. According to DEA and HIDTA reporting, Mexican criminal groups are the predominant wholesale methamphetamine traffickers in the country—even in the Northeast and Florida/Caribbean Regions—supplying various midlevel drug dealers.

Mexican control over wholesale and mid-level methamphetamine distribution is likely to increase as a greater proportion of wholesale methamphetamine production occurs in Mexico-based laboratories. Unfortunately, declines in domestic methamphetamine production, particularly by independent producers, will strengthen the position of Mexican criminal groups as midlevel and retail distributors.

Iowa has made great strides. Iowa is a model for how to address domestic sources of meth lab production with its tough precursor laws. Unfortunately, to meet the demand, more meth is coming in from Mexico. A coordinated multi-jurisdictional response involving local, State and Federal agencies is crucial. Local law enforcement needs to have the funds in this amendment to fight drug crimes.

ON THE ETHICS OF WAR: NON-COMBATANT INVOLVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article by Alex Vernon, a professor of American Studies in Hendrix College and a former member of the U.S. Armed Forces. The article titled *The Road From My Lai*, published in the op-ed section of the June 23, 2006 edition of the *New York Times*, drew parallels between the massacre at My Lai during Vietnam and the alleged atrocities at Haditha and Hamdania.

A veteran of the first Gulf War, Mr. Vernon has firsthand experience of the atrocities the soldiers can be driven to commit in times of

war. He is not making excuses for our forces in Iraq and neither do I. My Lai was a terrible tragedy and the Army's attempt of cover-up, abetted by the Nixon administration, was foiled by the efforts of Ronald Ridenhour, Congressman Morris Udall and journalist Seymour Hersh. We do not want to see a repeat of the My Lai cover-up again.

Sitting here on the Capitol, while we are deciding to continue the occupation in Iraq, our National Guard and Reserve troops are being forced to serve their third or even fourth tour of duty. The heightened tension of war and frustration at the efforts of certain groups of Iraqis to resist American occupation may have driven our troops to commit atrocities that they would never have otherwise committed. As Mr. Vernon stated in the article, the dull and boring hour-long instructions on ethics does nothing to change the situation. "Who needs to be told not to run a bayonet through a baby?"

Unfortunately regardless of the results of official enquiries and court-martial into the incidents of Haditha and Hamdania, the damage has been done. The verdict is already in; and it is not in the U.S.'s favor. While General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assures us that 99.9 percent of our servicemen and women are behaving humanely, the majority of the Iraqis confess no surprise at learning about the war crimes of the U.S. soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, our armed forces should remember novelist William Eastlake's remarks on My Lai. You cannot transfer the blame on your superior officer; use your own judgment.

And we, the legislators of the nation should keep in mind that in prolonging this needless war, we are amplifying the physical and psychological strains on our soldiers, thereby making room for more Hadithas and Hamdanias.

THE ROAD FROM MY LAI

(By Alex Vernon)

When I went to war as a junior officer in Iraq 15 years ago, we faced a far different enemy for far less time than today's troops are dealing with—four days back then, into our fourth year now. Yet in those first weeks in the desert before Desert Storm, back when we fully expected Iraq's several armored divisions to drive into Saudi Arabia and crush the two divisions we had on the ground, two soldiers under my command digging a fighting position lost their heads. One pulled a knife on the other. Fortunately, other soldiers pulled them apart.

It's impossible to imagine the frustration and stress on American soldiers in Iraq today—impossible, or maybe it's simply not something we willingly work to imagine. Then the news breaks. My first thought on hearing about the alleged atrocities at Haditha—and of the announcement this week that murder charges are being brought against eight American servicemen for killing an Iraqi civilian at Hamdania in April—was "Duh." If we didn't know this day was coming, we were fools.

I would like to ask those troops accused of war crimes in Iraq what they know about My Lai 4, the site of the most famous American atrocity in Vietnam. In the late 1990's, I did a brief stint in the Army Reserve commanding a company whose job was supporting active-duty basic training units. I recall no mention of My Lai in our classroom instruction.

These days, when I teach a college course on American war literature, My Lai inevitably comes up. Inevitably, a fair number of

students raise their hands to be reminded, possibly even introduced, to that dark day in 1968. These young men and women attend a prestigious liberal arts college and probably won't find themselves in places like Haditha or Hamdania. But they should be reasonably expected to know more about American history than their peers whom we do send with guns to Haditha and Hamdania.

I am slightly encouraged by our military's new commitment, announced in the wake of the Haditha reports, to ensure that coalition forces in Iraq receive training in ethics and values. But the cynic in me groans. Not another dull, forgettable one-hour block of instruction on ethics like I endured in my years of officer training. Who needs to be told not to run a bayonet through a baby?

According to Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, such training "should provide comfort to those looking to see if we are a nation that stands on the values we hold dear." With all due respect to the general, does he really think that such training will appease those who believe the Americans at Haditha and Hamdania, and our soldiers and agents elsewhere, are guilty of atrocities? Regardless of the results of official inquiries and courts-martial, the damage has been done. In the Muslim (and much of the non-Muslim) court of opinion, the verdict is already in.

Of course, learning about My Lai is hardly assurance against similarly criminal behavior; no more than graphic images of car accidents prevents reckless driving. And focusing on it today can create other problems. One is that we allow it to become representative, and to prejudice our perceptions of all American soldiers' behavior in Vietnam. The other is that we treat it as singular—an aberration for that war or for any American wars.

We already feel similar tensions regarding the reports out of Iraq. While General Pace assures us that "99.9 percent of the servicemen and servicewomen" are behaving properly and humanely, too many Iraqis report registering no surprise in learning about the alleged atrocities.

So are we saviors or monsters? The truth, as it always does, lives somewhere between. Our military is as thoroughly professional as scrappy guerrilla forces usually are not. But to pretend our soldiers never mistreat others would be a gross lie. After an article in *The New York Times Magazine* last year about American soldiers accused of drowning an innocent Iraqi and their battalion commander's cover-up, I got an e-mail message from one veteran of the current war that the treatment of that Iraqi differed from the treatment of others only in degree and result, not in kind.

Apologists for My Lai—and presumably future apologists for Iraq atrocities—are quick to lecture: That's war, buddy. You should see what the other guy does. I object to this argument because it smells like rationalization. It permits us to accept the unacceptable. It resists aspiring to a better way. The very idea of "wartime atrocity" is a 20th-century development, the most progressive and hopeful legacy of the world's bloodiest century.

There is hope. I can't imagine a Haditha or Hamdania version of "The Battle Hymn of Lieutenant Calley," a tribute to the officer responsible at My Lai that cracked the *Billboard* Top 40 in 1971. Its lyrics ran: "Sir, I followed all my orders and I did the best I could. / It's hard to judge the enemy and hard to tell the good. / Yet there's not a man among us who would not have understood."

Despite the calls to prosecute up the chain of command (indeed, up to President Bush himself) for the alleged crimes in Iraq, I sense more collective sympathy with the